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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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(71) Applicant: Hewlett-Packard Company,  
A Delaware Corporation  
Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US)

(72) Inventors:

- Perner, Frederick A.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306 (US)
- Eldredge, Kenneth J.  
Bolse, IL 83709 (US)
- Tran, Lung  
Saratoga, CA 95070 (US)

(74) Representative: Schoppe, Fritz, Dipl.-Ing.  
Schoppe, Zimmermann & Stöckeler  
Patentanwälte  
Postfach 71 08 67  
81458 München (DE)

### (54) Self-testing of magneto-resistive memory arrays

(57) A collection of testing circuits (106, 108, 110, 112) are disclosed which can be used to form a comprehensive built-in test system for MRAM arrays (102). The combination of testing circuits can detect MRAM array defects including: open rows (209), shorted memory cells (211), memory cells which are outside of resistance specifications, and simple read/write pattern errors. The built-in test circuits include a wired-OR circuit (216, 218) connecting all the rows (206) to test for open rows (209) and shorted memory cells (211). A dynamic sense circuit (300, 400) detects whether the resistance of memory cells is within specified limits (510, 520). An exclusive-OR gate (616) combined with global write controls (612, 614, 620) is integrated into the sense amplifiers and is used to perform simple read-write pattern tests. Error data from the margin tests and the read-write tests are reported through a second wired-OR circuit (630). Outputs from the two wired-OR circuits and the associated row addresses are reported to the test processor (112) or recorded into an on-chip error status table (110).

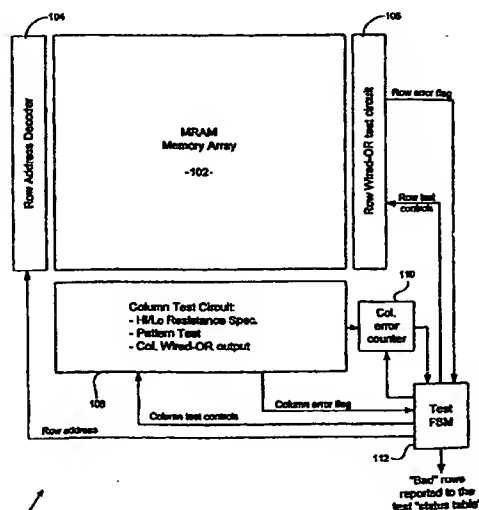


Figure 1

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 12 2088

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 9 October 2002	Examiner Ríos Báez, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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